- From one SDCA to other SDCA, outside the licensed service area of the service provider provided the tariff is same as that of intra SDCA tariff.

MTNL is providing the telecom service in Delhi and Mumbai only whereas BSNL is a Pan-India operator except Delhi and Mumbai. As per Telecom Tariff Order 1999 (TTO 99) and subsequent amendments, the local call charges are applicable on Intra SDCA traffic and for calls within distance category of 0-50 kms. Further, since both the organizations arc different entity, it is not possible to provide local call facility between Delhi and Dehradun. Further, BSNL is offering services in both urban as well as rural areas and offers uniform tariff to all subscribers in accordance with Interconnect Usage Charges (IUC) regulation prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) from time to time. Under landline service, BSNL is offering STD call in the range of Rs. 0.80 to Rs. 1.20 per minute throughout the country, which is very competitive and affordable. BSNL is also reviewing the tariff from time to time based on the market conditions and customers profile.

Mobile telephone services in rural areas

1886. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile telephone services have not been launched in many areas of the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, locationwise;

(c) the reasons due to which Government has not provided this facility in such areas; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to provide this facility in rural areas during current year as compared to previous year, indicating the success rate achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, as on 31.10.2008 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has covered all District Headquarters and 15989 cities/towns with GSM based mobile services. Out of 593601 villages RSNL has already covered 274960 villages with mobile services. Circle-wise/State-wise number of total villages and number of villages covered with mobile services as on 31.10.2008 is given in the Statement. (See below)

(c) The provision of mobile network being capital intensive can be done only in phases and as such BSNL is providing services in phased manner based on techno commercial viability of different areas. In addition, some areas, falling near International Border, are not covered with mobile services due to restriction imposed by license conditions as per Government policy.

(d) The efforts made by the Government to provide Mobile Telephone services in rural areas during the current year as compared to previous year are given below:—

(i) To increase the wireless communication in rural areas, scheme for setting up of 7871 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in 500 districts in 27 States for provision of mobile

services in rural and remote areas through subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) (Phase-1) has been launched and will be completed in a phased manner. As on 31.10.2008, 1934 towers in the country have already been set up under this scheme. Out of these, 1520 towers have been commissioned upto 31.10.2008 in the current financial year 2008-09 as compared to 414 towers commissioned in the previous financial year 2007-08.

(ii) Second phase of the Mobile Infrastructure Scheme for setting up 11,000 additional towers to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas is likely to be launched shortly.

(iii) Sharing of infrastructure has been permitted to reduce the capital as well as operation cost.

Statement

State-wise details of villages of the country having mobile telephone facilities
(As on 31.10.2008*)*

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Total villages	Villages with cellular Services
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	501	290
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26613	12014
3.	Assam	25124	6782
4.	Bihar	39032	11893
5.	Chhattisgarh	19744	6033
6.	Gujarat	18159	10502
7.	Haryana	6764	3389
8.	Himachal Pradesh	17495	8608
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6417	1453
10.	Jharkhand	29354	14711
11.	Karnataka	27481	14039
12.	Kerala	1372	1344
13.	Madhya Pradesh	52117	23329
14.	Maharashtra	41442	15813
15.	North East-I	7347	356
16.	North East-II	7456	2990
17.	Orissa	47529	18519

1	2	3	4
18.	Punjab	12301	9751
19.	Rajasthan	39753	17019
20.	Tamil Nadu	13837	6088
21.	Uttaranchal	15761	7900
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	76993	60559
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	20949	3055
24.	West Bengal	37512	17776
25.	Kolkata	893	437
26.	Chennai	1655	310
	TOTAL	593601	274960

Mobile phone towers

1887. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in India more than 300 million people use mobile phones and there are more than 1,22,000 towers emitting electromagnetic radiations;

(b) whether India has set any cap on Specific Absorpotion Rate for handsets as mandated by International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection; and

(c) whether mobile handsets sold in India need to indicate specifically the SAR level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Telecom commission has approved international Commission on Nonionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) Guidelines in Telecom Sector in India regarding basic restriction, which is Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile phones and reference levels for limiting Electro Magnetic emission (EMF) exposure.

The Department of Telecommunications has notified to Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue to take necessary action for compliance of guidelines recommended by ICNIRP. Further, the Department of Telecommunications has asked the manufacturers to adopt these standards and self certify their products.

3G spectrum allocation

1888. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the commissions and omissions against the Ministry in 3G spectrum allocation;